

**CLAIM AMENDMENT**

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following listing.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a filer including the steps of:  
receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object;  
processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes ~~at least one of the following: (1) searching for one or more recognizable patterns of data within said object, (2) compressing said object, and (3) encrypting said object;~~  
responding to said request, wherein said step of responding includes delivery of a response to said user.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said request is in an electronic form.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said object is a file.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of processing said request further includes the steps of:  
creating an access path from said filer to a processing cluster;  
processing said file in said processing cluster; and

generating a ~~scan report wherein, said scan~~ report is responsive to said processing of said file in said processing cluster.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of creating an access path includes sending the ID and path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using non-uniform memory access.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using a communications network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using a direct connection.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of processing of said file is performed by said processing cluster in a round robin fashion for subsequent files received.

10. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of processing of said file is accomplished in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein all files stored on said filer are ~~searched~~ encrypted in a logical continuous manner.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said ~~search~~ report contains a set of status data relating to said processing of said file.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said status data includes at least one data element identifying the presence or non-presence of a virus in said file.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said report is transferred to said filer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said report is stored in a first database.

Claims 16-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~, 3, wherein said delivery of a response is said file.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~, 3, wherein said delivery of a response includes notification to said user that said file is unavailable.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~, 4, wherein said step of responding to said request includes sending said user a copy of said ~~scan~~ report.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for operating a filer including:  
 means for receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object;  
 means for processing said request at a second location, wherein said means for processing includes ~~at least one of the following: (1) means for searching for one or more recognizable patterns of data within said object, (2) means for compressing said object, and (3) means for encrypting said~~ object; object;

means for responding to said request, wherein said means for responding includes delivery of a response to said user.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said object is a file.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for processing said request further includes:

means for creating an access path from said filer to a processing cluster;  
 means for processing said file in said processing cluster; and  
 means for generating a ~~scan report wherein, said scan report is responsive to said processing~~ of said file in said processing cluster.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said means for creating an access path includes means for sending the ID and path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster.

25. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said sending is accomplished using non-uniform memory access.

26. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said sending is accomplished using a communications network.

27. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said sending is accomplished using a direct connection.

28. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said processing of said file is performed by said processing cluster in a round robin fashion for subsequent files received.

29. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said processing of said file is performed on atomic units of said file by more than one device in said processing cluster.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein all files stored on said filer are ~~seamed~~ encrypted in a logical continuous manner.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said ~~scan~~ report contains a set of status data relating to said processing of said file.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said status data includes at least one data element identifying the presence or non-presence of a virus in said file.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said report is transferred to said filer.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said report is stored in a first database.

Claims 35-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~21~~, 22, wherein said delivery of a response is delivery of said file.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~21~~, 22, wherein said delivery of a response includes delivery of notification to said user that said file is unavailable.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~21~~, 23, wherein said responding to said request includes sending said user some portion of said ~~scan~~ report.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of attempting to provide virus protection in a client-server environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request at a server for a file;

~~sending~~ sending, from the server, an identifier for the file to a cluster of scanning device  
devices that ~~seans~~ scan the file for viruses;

~~receiving~~ receiving, at the server, an indication from the scanning ~~device~~ devices as to whether or not the file is safe to send from the server; and

responding to the request by sending the file if the indication is that the file is safe to ~~send~~.  
send;

wherein communication between the server and the cluster of scanning devices is performed  
using non-uniform memory access.

41. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 40, wherein the scanning ~~device indicates~~  
devices indicate that the file is safe to send if the scanning ~~device determines~~ devices determine that  
the file is not infected with any viruses.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 40, wherein the request is received from  
and the file is sent to a client device.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 40, wherein the server is a web server.

Claim 44 (Canceled).

45. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 44, wherein the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers.

Claims 46-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently Amended) A server that attempts to provide ~~virus protection~~ encryption services in a client-server environment, comprising:

a communication link to client devices;

mass storage for files; and

a processor that executes instructions in order to send requested files to the client devices, the instructions also including instructions (a) to receive a request for a file, (b) to send an identifier for the file to ~~a scanning~~ an encrypting device that ~~seans~~ encrypts the file, and ~~file for viruses~~, (c) to ~~receive an indication from the scanning device as to whether or not the file is safe to send from the server, and~~ (d) to respond to the request by sending the file. ~~file if the indication is that the file is safe to send.~~

58. (Canceled).

59. (Previously Presented) A server as in claim 57, wherein the request is received from and the file is sent to a client device.



60. (Previously Presented) A server as in claim 57, wherein the server is a web server.

61. (Currently Amended) A server as in claim 57, wherein the ~~seanning~~ encrypting device is one of a cluster of devices connected to the server that function similarly to the ~~seanning~~ encrypting device.

62. (Previously Presented) A server as in claim 61, wherein the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers.

Claims 63-73 (Canceled).

74. (Currently Amended) Storage containing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to attempt to provide virus protection in a client-server environment, the instructions comprising the steps of:

receiving a request at a server for a file;

~~sending~~ sending, from the server, an identifier for the file to a cluster of ~~scanning-device~~ devices that ~~seans~~ scan the file for viruses;

~~receiving~~ receiving, at the server, an indication from the scanning ~~device~~ devices as to whether or not the file is safe to send from the server; and

responding to the request by sending the file if the indication is that the file is safe to ~~send~~.  
send;

wherein communication between the server and the cluster of scanning devices is performed using non-uniform memory access.

75. (Currently Amended) Storage as in claim 74, wherein the scanning ~~device indicates~~ devices indicate that the file is safe to send if the scanning ~~device determines~~ devices determine that the file is not infected with any viruses.

76. (Previously Presented) Storage as in claim 74, wherein the request is received from and the file is sent to a client device.

77. (Previously Presented) Storage as in claim 74, wherein the server is a web server.

Claim 78 (Canceled).

79. (Currently Amended) Storage as in claim ~~78~~, 74, wherein the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers.

Claims 80-90 (Canceled).

91. (Currently Amended) Storage containing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to operate a filer, the instructions comprising the steps of:  
receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object;

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processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes ~~at least one of the following: (1) searching for one or more recognizable patterns of data within said object, (2) compressing said object, and (3) encrypting said object;~~  
responding to said request, wherein said step of responding includes delivery of a response to said user.